

Message Text

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SUBJECT: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXHIBITION

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1. BEGIN SUMMARY. CHINESE INDICATED BASIC AGREEMENT WITH U.S. RESPONSES TO THEIR PROPOSALS BUT SAID THERE MAY BE MINOR CHANGES FROM CANADIAN VERSION OF SPONSORING ORGANIZATION PROTOCOL. HSIAO T'EH INDICATED THAT EXTENSION OF TOUR TO NINE MONTHS AND THREE CITIES "WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE". HE SAID HE WILL CALL EARLY MEETING TO PASS US CHINESE DRAFTS OF DOCUMENTS TO BE EXCHANGED INCLUDING SPONSORING ORGANIZATION PROTOCOL. END SUMMARY.

2. DC HOLDRIDGE AND ANDERSON MET APRIL 2 WITH DEPUTY DIRECTOR, MFA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT, HSIAO T'EH. HOLDRIDGE PRESENTED POINT-BY-POINT U.S. RESPONSE TO CHINESE PROPOSALS (REF A) DRAWING ON ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED REF B. ON QUESTION OF A FURTHER EXTENSION OF THE EXHIBIT'S STAY IN THE UNITED STATES AND ADDITION OF ONE MORE CITY, HOLDRIDGE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR EXTENSION ALREADY GRANTED AND STRESSED THAT THIS NEW PROPOSAL BEING MADE TO ENHANCE IMPACT OF THE EXHIBITION ON THE
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AMERICAN PUBLIC AND TO GIVE A LARGE AND IMPORTANT SEGMENT OF

AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION, WHICH OTHERWISE WOULD NOT HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY, A CHANCE TO SEE EVIDENCE OF U.S. - PRC RELATIONSHIP AND THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PRC. PROBLEM FOR US OF MAKING CHOICE BETWEEN AREAS SUCH AS MIDWEST AND WEST COAST ALSO OUTLINED. HE NOTED AS PER REF B THAT WE DID NOT WANT TO INTRODUCE A CONTENTIOUS ISSUE INTO OUR DISCUSSIONS, SAID AGAIN THAT WE WERE VERY GRATEFUL FOR CHINA'S ALREADY GENEROUS OFFER, AND CONCLUDED THAT IF CHINESE UNABLE BECAUSE OF OTHER CONSIDERATIONS TO GRANT A FURTHER EXTENSION WE WOULD WITHDRAW OUR REQUEST WITHOUT ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION.

3. IN RESPONSE TO THIS POINT HSIAO REFERRED TO HIS EXPLANATION AT OUR MARCH 19 MEETING THAT LENGTH OF STAY IN EACH COUNTRY WAS BASED ON TOTAL TIME PRC FELT RELICS SHOULD REMAIN OUT OF THE COUNTRY. HE AGAIN MENTIONED NATURAL DETERIORATION DUE TO CHANGING CLIMATIC CONDITIONS AND FREQUENT HANDLING, AND POINTED OUT THAT EXHIBIT CURRENTLY IN YUGOSLAVIA HAS SEVERAL ITEMS THAT HAVE ALREADY SHOWN RATHER SERIOUS DETERIORATION AND WHICH MAY HAVE TO BE WITHDRAWN. HSIAO SAID SIX MONTH STAY IN U.S. WOULD ALREADY CAUSE EXHIBIT TO BE OUT OF CHINA FOR SLIGHTLY LONGER THAN ORIGINALLY PLANNED. LENGTH OF STAY IN U.S. AND OFFER OF TWO CITIES, HE SAID, WAS BASED ON SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF U.S. AND FACT THAT U.S. BEARING GREATER COSTS INVOLVED IN RETURNING EXHIBIT TO PEKING. HSIAO POINTEDLY NOTED THAT AUSTRIA AND SWEDEN ARE BEING GIVEN RELATIVELY SHORT EXHIBITS AND THAT CANADIANS HAD ASKED FOR BOTH TORONTO AND VANCOUVER AND HAD BEEN TURNED DOWN. HE OFFERED TO REFER OUR REQUEST TO THE RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATION BUT EXPRESSED THE PERSONAL VIEW THAT IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE.

4. ON OTHER POINTS RAISED BY HOLDRIDGE, HSIAO AGREED THAT CANADIAN AGREEMENTS WOULD SERVE AS BASIS FOR EXCHANGE OF GOVERNMENTAL-LEVEL DOCUMENTS AND PRIVATE PROTOCOL, BUT HE SAID THAT IN CASE OF PROTOCOL THERE MIGHT BE SOME MINOR CHANGES. SUCH CHANGES WOULD BE BASED ON EXPERIENCE IN OTHER COUNTRIES, AND HE STRESSED THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE SPECIAL CONDITIONS FOR U.S. ANY COUNTRY WHICH HAS NOT YET REACHED AGREEMENT FOR EITHER OF THE EXHIBITS WOULD HAVE THE SAME CHANGES INCLUDED IN THE PROTOCOL.

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5. HSIAO SAID REQUEST FOR TWO AIRCRAFT WAS CHINESE MINIMUM SECURITY CONDITION AND IF U.S. OR INSURANCE COMPANIES REQUIRED MORE THAN TWO AIRCRAFT THAT WAS FOR U.S. TO DECIDE. HE DID NOT RESPOND TO OUR STATEMENT THAT IT WAS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT RECEIVING COUNTRY WOULD PAY SHIPPING EXPENSES FROM CANADA TO U.S. WE WILL CLARIFY AT NEXT MEETING.

6. IN RESPONSE TO OUR INVITATION FOR A DELEGATION OF ARCHAEOLOGISTS AND MUSEUM PERSONNEL TO VISIT U.S. IN CONJUNCTION WITH EXHIBITION, HSIAO EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR THE OFFER AND SAID HE WOULD PASS IT ALONG TO THE COMMISSION ON NATIONAL RELICS WHICH WOULD HAVE TO MAKE THE DECISION. HE NOTED THAT THERE WAS STILL CONSIDERABLE TIME TO DISCUSS THIS QUESTION.

7. ON MATTER OF SENDING A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE AMERICAN SPONSORING ORGANIZATION TO PEKING TO SIGN THE PROTOCOL, HSIAO NOTED THAT SEVERAL DIFFERENT APPROACHES HAVE BEEN USED. IN SOME CASES, LIKE UK AND FRANCE, BOTH AGREEMENTS SIGNED IN HOST CAPITAL. IN OTHERS, BOTH AGREEMENTS SIGNED IN PEKING, AND IN CASE OF CANADIANS, GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENT SIGNED IN PEKING AND PROTOCOL SIGNED IN CANADA. PRC HAD FOUND CANADIAN APPROACH CUMBERSOME AND HSIAO NOTED HE STILL HAD NOT HEARD WHETHER PROTOCOL SIGNED. HE SAID NO OTHER COUNTRY HAD SENT SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF PRIVATE HOST ORGANIZATION TO PEKING FOR SIGNING, BUT AGREED TO CONSIDER OUR PROPOSAL AND RATIONALE THEREFORE.

8. HSIAO CONCLUDED CONVERSATION BY ASKING IF HOST ORGANIZATION AND TWO CITIES HAD ALREADY BEEN DECIDED UPON. HOLDRIDGE SAID THERE HAD BEEN NO DECISION ON HOST ORGANIZATION, BUT THAT WASHINGTON WOULD PROBABLY BE THE FIRST CITY FOLLOWED BY AS YET UNDETERMINED SECOND LOCATION. NOW THAT U.S. RESPONSE HAD BEEN RECEIVED, HSIAO SAID, PRC WOULD IN NEAR FUTURE PRESENT FOR OUR CONSIDERATION ITS DRAFTS OF THE DOCUMENTS TO BE EXCHANGED AND THE PROTOCOL.

9. COMMENT: ATMOSPHERE AT MEETING WAS CORDIAL AND HSIAO'S REACTION TO OUR PROPOSAL FOR A FURTHER EXTENSION OF THE EXHIBIT'S STAY AND ADDITION OF A THIRD CITY WAS MILD. HOWEVER, HIS RATHER DETAILED COMPARISON OF TREATMENT ACCORDED U.S. IN CONFIDENTIAL

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CONTRAST WITH OTHER COUNTRIES APPEARED DESIGNED TO INDICATE THAT THERE WERE POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED FOR THE CHINESE AS WELL AS CONCERN FOR THE SAFETY OF THE RELICS. CHINESE POINT HERE PROBABLY THAT PRC ALREADY OFFERING U.S., A COUNTRY WITH WHICH IT DOES NOT HAVE FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, MUCH MORE TIME AND CONSIDERATION THAN IT HAS GIVEN COUNTRIES WITH WHICH IT MAINTAINS FULL PANOPLY OF RELATIONS. ANYTHING MORE MIGHT BE A POLITICAL EMBARRASSMENT, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF ANTI-CONFUCIUS ANTI-LIN PIAO CAMPAIGN, AND USLO RECOMMENDS THAT WE ACCEPT SITUATION IF -- AS SEEMS LIKELY -- FINAL CHINESE WORD ON THIS ISSUE IS "NO." THE ADDITION OF FURTHER CONDITIONS IN THE PROTOCOL BEYOND WHAT THE CANADIANS HAVE ALREADY AGREED TO COULD POSE PROBLEMS FOR US, BUT THIS WILL BE CLARIFIED WHEN WE RECEIVE THE CHINESE DRAFTS.

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